Is it time to push? Can I get one
verything okay? Can I walk arou
girl? Can I really do this without a
nsite? Can you please squeeze m
loctor? How much faster will I del
isten to this playlist? How long is

Einstein answers.

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Can I deliver with a midwife? Is
the hospital this time? Will it be
s it time to push? Is there a docto
ave some ice chips? Can I switch
ne? **Will I have a private room?** C
n I get one of those exercise balls

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Wednesday, January 9, 2019 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

THE BACONHATER

Authorities are trying to determine whether the motive behind the discovery of a decapitated potbellied pig in Northeast Philly is bigotry, satanism or simple cruelty. 4

ISTOCK

GETTY IMAGES

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5 THINGS TO KNOW

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SAM NEWHOUSE, REPORTER

The discovery of a beheaded potbellied pig on the sidewalk outside Pennypack Park sent shivers of fear down the spines of Philadelphia animal lovers — and now, Philly animal cops are on the case. The PSPCA's Humane Law Enforcement team cautioned that despite public concerns that a beheaded animal was likely a victim of an occult animal sacrifice, pigs are rarely used in such ceremonies. Instead, they say, this incident was most likely someone being "cruel for the sake of cruelty." With pig ownership a rarity in the city, the PSPCA hopes to quickly narrow down the leads and find the perpetrator. Read more inside and on **MetroPhilly.us.**

1 GIRL SECRETLY RECORDS DAD COACHING HER TO LIE

A 13-year-old girl secretly made cellphone recordings of her father coaching her to lie to the Pennsylvania judge overseeing his prosecution for charges he physically assaulted her, prosecutors said on Tuesday. The girl shared the recordings with a Monroe Country prosecutor last week ahead of a hearing in county court in Stroudsburg, according to a criminal complaint filed in court. "I was shocked at what I was watching," Julieane Fry, the prosecutor the girl approached, said in a telephone interview. The girl's father, Deyon Taylor, was charged last June with simple assault and other charges after prosecutors say he attacked the girl, according to court filings. Taylor, 56, had been released on bail of $5,000, and spent Christmas and New Year's Eve traveling with his daughter and her mother. The girl, who has not been publicly named, asked to meet Fry in private ahead of a status conference hearing for her father on Friday. She told the prosecutor she was afraid of her father and had videos of "him coaching her to tell the judge and the police that she lied about the incident in June," the criminal complaint said.

2 BILLIONAIRE STEYER TO ANNOUNCE ON 2020 RACE

Billionaire environmentalist Tom Steyer, a Democratic donor and activist who has spent millions pushing to impeach Republican President Donald Trump, is expected to announce on Wednesday whether he will make a 2020 White House bid. Steyer will discuss his "political plans for 2019 and beyond" at a news conference in Iowa, where he is hosting an event on access to education, according to a statement released on Tuesday. Iowa is the traditional starting point for the Democratic nominating contests that will kick off early next year. His spokespeople did not respond to requests for more details about the announcement. Steyer has said he was considering running for president. Steyer, 61, has grown increasingly active in politics over the past decade but has never run for office. Early opinion polls show him trailing other Democrats in name recognition and support. He may face another self-funded billionaire candidate in Michael Bloomberg, the former mayor of New York, who has more of a national profile.

3 TRUMP MAKES HIS CASE FOR WALL

President Donald Trump urged Congress on Tuesday to give him $5.7 billion this year to help build a wall on the border with Mexico, but stopped short of declaring a national emergency that could have led to unilaterally funding the project. Facing Democratic opposition in Congress to a wall, Trump said in a prime-time televised speech that there was a growing security crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border.

GETTY IMAGES

4 DRONE REPORTS HALT HEATHROW FLIGHTS

Flights from London's Heathrow airport were halted for about an hour on Tuesday after a drone was sighted near Europe's busiest air hub, raising fears that the chaos that affected rival Gatwick last month could be repeated on an even larger scale. "We are responding to a drone sighting at Heathrow," the airport said. "As a precautionary measure, we have stopped departures while we investigate. We apologize to passengers for any inconvenience this may cause." London's Metropolitan Police said it had received reports of a drone near the airport at about noon on Tuesday, which it was investigating with airport authorities. It said police officers were among those who reported seeing a drone and that it had launched a full criminal investigation. The airport confirmed about an hour later that take-offs had resumed. Flight tracker websites showed flights departing from 1 p.m. A Reuters witness in a plane on the runway at Heathrow said multiple aircraft were waiting for permission to take off before being later told that things were starting to move.

5 MARGOT ROBBIE TO PLAY BARBIE IN FILM

Actress Margot Robbie is to play Barbie in the first live-action feature movie about the iconic and controversial doll, who has enjoyed multiple careers in her 60-year lifetime. Toymaker Mattel and movie studio Warner Bros. on Tuesday announced they were partnering to make the film, which will star the Oscar-nominated actress. Robbie, 28, will also co-produce the film, the companies said in a statement. No plot, title or release date was announced for the film, which comes 60 years after the adult-figured Barbie fashion doll was launched in March 1959. Robbie, who was Oscar-nominated for her starring role in the 2017 ice-skating movie "I, Tonya" and who appeared in the 2016 superhero movie "Suicide Squad," said she hoped the film would "have a tremendously positive impact on children and audiences worldwide." "Barbie has empowered kids to imagine themselves in aspirational roles from a princess to president," the actress said in a statement. Barbie has adopted more than 200 careers in her lifetime, including robotics engineer, astronaut and teacher.

Manafort allegedly lied about giving polling data to Russian

A meeting about a "Ukranian peace plan" allegedly occurred in Madrid.

Paul Manafort. GETTY IMAGES

President Donald Trump's former campaign chairman, Paul Manafort, was accused by federal prosecutors of lying about sharing polling data related to Trump's 2016 presidential campaign with a business partner with alleged ties to Russian intelligence, according to portions of a court filing by Manafort's defense team that were inadvertently made public on Tuesday.

Before sending the document to a public database for federal court filings, lawyers for Manafort had tried to black out the portion on polling data and other information about Manafort's interactions with Konstantin Kilimnik, a former business partner of Manafort's who Mueller has claimed in court filings has ties to Russian intelligence.

But some journalists, including at Vox and the Guardian, realized the redacted portions could be electronically reversed and posted uncensored versions on Twitter. Reuters did not independently review the filing, which was soon replaced in the public database with a properly redacted version.

Manafort's lawyers did not respond to a request for comment on the matter. A spokesman for Special Counsel Robert Mueller, whose office is prosecuting Manafort, declined to comment. Kilimnik could not be reached for comment.

According to the unredacted versions posted online, the blacked-out sections showed that Manafort has been accused by Mueller of lying about his sharing of polling data on the 2016 campaign with Kilimnik.

The sections posted online also stated that Mueller's office believes that Manafort lied to prosecutors about his discussions with Kilimnik about a "Ukrainian peace plan" and a meeting that Manafort had with Kilimnik when they both were in Madrid.

The filing did not provide further details on the Madrid meeting or the peace plan, although Mueller has scrutinized a proposal by a Ukrainian lawmaker that involved, among other outcomes, the lifting of U.S. sanctions on Russia.

In the document Manafort's lawyers referenced a December court filing in which Mueller alleged that Manafort had "conceded" to discussing the peace plan, which they argued was an indication that their client was forthcoming when his memory was refreshed of past events.

The inadvertent disclosures offered a rare glimpse into details that were meant to remain private while Manafort's lawyers and Mueller's office battle over whether Manafort has breached a plea agreement struck in September by lying.

In December Mueller accused Manafort in a court filing of telling "multiple discernible lies" related to five subjects, including his interactions with Kilimnik and his contacts with Trump administration officials in 2018.

At the time, Manafort's lawyers said their client never intentionally provided incorrect information to prosecutors, but asked the judge for time to consider whether they wanted to contest Mueller's allegations or proceed to sentencing.

U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson had given Manafort's lawyers until Monday to make a decision. REUTERS

A potbellied pig similar to this one was found beheaded recently. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

PSPCA seeks beheader of potbellied pig

In a disturbing discovery, the mutilated body of a pig was found dead inside a dog crate in Northeast Philadelphia.

SAM NEWHOUSE
sam.newhouse@metro.us

A bound, beheaded potbellied pig was recently discovered at the edge of Pennypack Park, and now law enforcement is hunting down whoever was responsible.

Nicole Wilson, the PSPCA's director of Humane Law Enforcement, said they do not know why this pig was subjected to a painful death.

"We know that the pig was bound, we know that the pig was decapitated. What might be the motivating factor behind someone doing that, we really don't know," Wilson told Metro.

The body of the pig, a female believed to be a young adult or juvenile, was found in a plastic dog crate on the sidewalk near the intersection of Rising Sun Avenue and Tustin Street, adjacent to Pennypack Park, in the Fox Chase-Burholme area.

Philadelphia police contacted the PSPCA to alert them to the discovery of the pig's body.

While a decapitated animal may sound to the layman like it relates to an occult ritual, Wilson said that is likely not the case.

Wilson believes the perpetrator was someone "who simply wanted to do something cruel for the sake of cruelty."

"Often, when we find animals that have had their head removed and those type of issues, people tend to think of animal sacrifice," Wilson said. "But pigs aren't used in animal sacrifice because they're considered unclean animals, so that's not something we believe is attributable in this case."

As no pigs have recently been reported stolen or missing in the Philly area, the PSPCA believes the pig's owner or caretaker was either responsible or knows the people responsible for this crime. It is illegal to own a pig in the city of Philadelphia, but Wilson said the PSPCA has encountered locals who keep pigs as pets over the years.

The last time a pig's head was involved in a high-profile crime was in December 2015, days after the San Bernardino mass shooting, following then-candidate candidate Donald Trump's call for an illegal "total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States."

The night after Trump made his comments, a pig's head was flung at the exterior of the Al-Aqsa Islamic Society in Kensington. (Pork and pig products are forbidden under a Muslim halal diet, as they are under the Jewish rules of kosher.) The incident drew widespread condemnation from local leaders and was investigated by Philly police and the FBI, but no arrest was ever reported.

The location where this decapitated pig was found on Monday is not close to synagogues, mosques or even butcheries or meatpacking plants.

Wilson said the PSPCA has received a few tips from the public that they are following up on currently. Another potbellied pig was dropped off at an ACCT Philly shelter on Monday with injuries to its ear, and the two cases may be related, Fox 29 reported.

"The owner or caretaker of the pig is likely responsible for what happened," Wilson said. "Whoever did it, the way pigs are behaviorally, this pig was likely very vocal. Pigs are very animated animals, they're very intelligent animals, and clearly this pig would have gone through some very stressful times prior to this terrible act being committed."

To report animal cruelty to the PSPCA, call their hotline at 866-601-SPCA.

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Raymond Rowe (l) pleaded guilty to the 1992 murder of Christy Mirack (r). COURTESY OF LANCASTER COUNTY DA'S OFFICE

'DJ Freez' pleads guilty to cold-case murder of Christy Mirack

Justice has finally caught up with "DJ Freez."

SAM NEWHOUSE
sam.newhouse@metro.us

Raymond Rowe, 50, who DJed at parties for decades under the moniker DJ Freez, pleaded guilty on Tuesday to the vicious 1992 rape and murder of a 25-year-old East Lampeter Township woman.

"I can't imagine what you are going through. I apologize," Rowe said during his guilty plea sentencing to the family of victim Christy Mirack, who worked as a schoolteacher.

Rowe's defense lawyer attorney, Patricia Spotts, entered the guilty plea on Rowe's behalf, stating, "He has told us that he did it. ... The person standing beside me has admitted his guilt."

As part of an agreement with prosecutors to plead guilty, Rowe accepted a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole, plus a 60- to 120-year sentence.

Rowe was a DJ at Lancaster's Chameleon Club for 15 years, according to his website, and worked as a DJ at parties since the '90s. Prior to that Rowe performed as a breakdancer.

Mirack's 1992 murder was cold until 2016, when investigators began to review DNA evidence from the murder using new technology.

Mirack was reportedly surprised by an attacker as she was preparing to go to work on the morning of Dec. 21, 1992. Police said she was bludgeoned with a wooden cutting board, sexually assaulted and strangled to death. Her body was found by a co-worker who went to find her after she did not report for work that day.

Decades later, investigators sent the DNA evidence to Parabon NanoLabs, developed a "genotype file," including creating a rendering of Rowe's likely appearance. The DNA was later matched to the DNA of relatives of Rowe in public genealogical research databases, and police developed Rowe as a "strong viable suspect" based on age, his whereabouts during the crime, and the rendering.

At that point, a detective went to one of Rowe's gigs as "DJ Freez" to obtain DNA confirmation.

"On May 31, investigators obtained DNA surreptitiously from Rowe, from chewing gum and a water bottle Rowe used while working as a disc jockey at an event at Smoketown Elementary School," the Lancaster County DA's office said. "Testing revealed a match."

Pennsylvania State Police performed the tests, and according to the Lancaster DA, there is a one-in-200-octillion chance that the killer is someone besides Rowe. Police arrested Rowe at his Whittier Lane home in Lancaster, Pa., in June 2018. He has been jailed ever since.

No clear motive for the crime or how Rowe even encountered Mirack was made public.

"We are not at a point where we are discussing or speculating about a motive. Considering the time that has past, some specific questions about motive might never be answered publicly," Lancaster DA Craig Stedman said in a statement. "I can say, in consideration of all the information and evidence — to include the DNA found at the scene — we know that this defendant raped and brutally murdered Christy Mirack."

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FBI testifies it collected up to 200 'El Chapo' calls

The trial is expected to last several more weeks.

Joaquin Guzman Loera, also known as "El Chapo," in 2016. GETTY IMAGES

The voice of Joaquin Guzman, the accused Mexican drug lord known as "El Chapo," wafted through a Brooklyn courtroom on Tuesday after an FBI special agent said the agency had intercepted 100 to 200 recorded calls of him after infiltrating his encrypted messaging system.

Testimony from the agent, Steven Marston, came nearly two months into the trial of Guzman, which began last Nov. 13 and may last a few more weeks.

Guzman, 61, was extradited to the United States in January 2017 to face charges of trafficking huge quantities of cocaine, heroin and other drugs into the United States as the leader of the Sinaloa cartel.

Prosecutors have also said Guzman played a central role in a Mexican drug war in which more than 100,000 people have died. Guzman faces life in prison if convicted.

Marston said the FBI tapped into more than 800 calls on the encrypted system with the help of a cooperating witness, Christian Rodriguez, with its probe targeting Guzman, Colombian drug trafficking leader Diego Cifuentes and others.

The agent said the system's servers were moved to the Netherlands, where they "would not be suspicious" to Sinaloa, and that calls were intercepted from April 2011 to January 2012.

Marston said Guzman was readily identifiable by his higher-pitched voice, which had "kind of a sing-songy nature to it" and a "nasally undertone."

$3M

Tuesday began with testimony from Galvan, a low-level trafficker whom the defense accused of fabricating $3 million in monthly payments ... to Guzman, with the hope of reducing his own 24⅓-year prison term.

A few calls were played to jurors by early afternoon. Jurors had previously heard from former Guzman associates testifying about multi-ton drug shipments, deadly wars be-

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Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman Loera. GETTY IMAGES

tween rival drug lords, and corruption by Mexican public officials.

Guzman's lawyers have portrayed their client as a scapegoat for what they called Sinaloa's real leader, Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada, who also faces U.S. charges but remains at large.

The defendant mostly sat quietly during testimony, but waved enthusiastically to his wife in the courtroom before it started.

Tuesday's proceedings began with additional testimony from government witness Edgar Galvan, a low-level drug trafficker whom the defense accused of fabricating $3 million in monthly payments from another trafficker to Guzman, with the hope of reducing his own 24½-year prison term.

Galvan denied making up the payments, although he admitted to having previously lied to investigators.

"Would you say you're a pretty good liar?" defense lawyer William Purpura asked Galvan.

"I used to be," Galvan said. REUTERS

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Pat King
Grumble Editor

READER WRITE-INS:

YOU CALL THAT A GRUMBLE? Wow, it must have been a slow day at the Grumble desk yesterday. The only complaint you could come up with was the basting threads on the back of suit jackets? Marian, this is what really gets your goat, basting threads? I guarantee you, if the manufacturers use brightly colored thread, people will think it is a new fashion statement and even more people will be leaving the threads on.

How about some real Grumbles, like people who think a right turn on red is their god-given right, or those who pull out into traffic whenever there is a car's length to fit into, forcing those with the green light to put on the breaks to avoid hitting the idiot? (Not really an issue for those living in the city.) I believe the law is, come to a complete stop, and if there is no traffic, then proceed with caution. You're at a RED light. Sit back, open that jacket vent, and relax.

— **D'Raz'** *Metro NY reader*

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Please remember to send your Humbles to **humble@metro.us**. These submissions can be acts of gratitude, positivity or kindness that you have seen throughout the day.

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Aries Think about how best to use your time and skills to benefit yourself and others. Keep your plans secret until you have eliminated any flaws.

Taurus Soak up knowledge, information and experience. You will gain insight and confidence through the connections you make and the information you gather.

Gemini Look for opportunities, but don't believe everything someone tells you. If a project or product interests you, do some serious research and see where it takes you.

Cancer If you feel the urge to do something, look into it. Take a unique step in a new direction and invite someone you know and trust to join you.

Leo Get moving. You'll have the energy and wherewithal to make changes you've long been contemplating. Stop spinning your wheels and take the plunge.

Virgo Group endeavors will be good for you. The information you pick up and the people you meet will open your eyes to what's available. A networking event is favored.

Libra Tread carefully when dealing with home, family and domestic concerns. You can't put a price on love, but loyalty and honesty will go part and parcel with keeping the peace.

Scorpio Attending a reunion or getting together with someone you haven't seen in a long time will spark memories and lead to plans. A unique change at home will give you a boost.

Sagittarius Change begins within. Do your best to offer love and compassion to friends and family, but don't let anyone take advantage of you. Romance is in the stars.

Capricorn Keep an open mind when dealing with others, but don't let anyone take you for granted. Offer suggestions, your services or your time, but not cash. Focus on helping yourself.

Aquarius It's OK to change your mind. As long as you are honest about your thoughts and plans, you should feel no guilt for following your own path.

Pisces Cover your bases when helping others. Don't be gullible. Pay attention to the root of a problem and focus on how best to make a difference.

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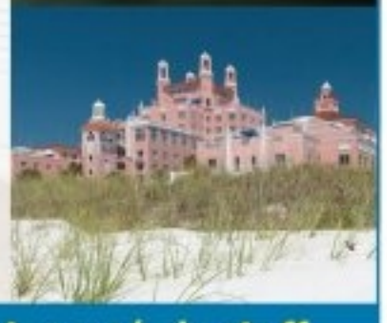

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Aya Cash and Chris Geere say goodbye to 'You're the Worst'

The stars open up about saying goodbye to the popular comedy series.

ANDREW HUSBAND
drew.husband@metro.us

It's the end of the road for the hit FXX series. ALL PHOTOS FXX

This week, the fifth and final season of FXX's critically acclaimed comedy series "You're the Worst" will premiere.

For the sake of avoiding any and all spoilers for the sake of eager fans, let's just say that creator Stephen Falk has found a uniquely odd (but appropriate) way to kick off the beginning of the end. At least that's what stars Aya Cash and Chris Geere told Metro while promoting "You're the Worst" season 5.

"I never used to enjoy doing standalone episodes because I didn't know how they were going to turn out," admits Geere, who plays Jimmy Shive-Overly. "But there was so much trust invested in Stephen. Anything he throws at us is going to work. It all comes from a great place. So when we were filming this episode, in particular, Aya and I used to look at each other and go, 'Is this our show? What are we doing?'"

Despite the season 5 premiere's eclectic approach to picking up where season 4 left off, the pair is excited for audiences to see what happens during the next few months. Unsurprisingly, they're also a bit sad about the whole affair, for once the 13th episode comes to a conclusion, that will be it for the show.

"Yeah, I'm sad, but I'm also excited for everybody to see it," says Cash, who plays Gretchen Cutler. "You never know how people are going to react, but when I read [the episode scripts], I was like, 'Oh, this feels right.' So I'm excited to share them with everybody but totally devastated that it's over now."

As somber as the occasion is, both Cash and Geere agree that, when working in a long-form entertainment format like television, knowing just how much story there is left to tell is a good place to be. After all, the "You're the Worst" team knew going into season 5 that it would be the show's last. In that way, they would all get to tell the story they wanted to tell, and how they wanted to tell it.

"It's so much better," says Cash. "It's so much more civilized to be able to end a series on your own terms and close out the story. If we had just ended after any random season, I think we'd all be wondering what happened. But now, we get to really say goodbye and pay our respects to the series."

"It's rare to know so far in advance that you're going to get another season, let alone actually know that it's ending," adds Geere. "To get five seasons is a huge accomplishment in our current climate. We're upset we didn't get that movie because that would have been so much fun, but "You're the Worst" has been, and will always be, a sleeper show. The fans seem to keep building over time. The numbers seem to keep growing as we go on. As a TV viewer, if I know that I can watch the entirety of something on a streaming service, that's great. I like that. People like to have a beginning, middle and end and we most definitely have that."

Of course, this doesn't mean that Cash and Geere won't be doing anything else anytime soon. The British actor briefly commented on his role in the Ryan Reynolds-starring "Detective Pikachu" movie: "I just spent four months on that, which was all green screen," he joked.

Cash, meanwhile, will next be seen in FX's upcoming miniseries "Fosse/Verdon," in which she plays Joan Simon, the wife of playwright Neil Simon. "That was super fun and I have a great wig," she says of the experience. "That's my spoiler alert."

"You're the Worst" season 5 premieres tonight at 10 p.m. on FXX.

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3400 Ashley Armington, Household Goods, Totes, Bags
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Jon Glaser talks his all-consuming love for all things *'Gear'*

Season 2 of "Jon Glaser Loves Gear" premieres tonight on truTV.

PAT KING
patrick.king@metro.us

Comedian Jon Glaser has a knack for creating characters with all-consuming and life-derailing obsessions. Whether it is the preservation of a fragile ego with his character "Jon" from the witness-protection drama and reality TV show hybrid "Delocated" or his recent turn as Neon Joe in "Neon Joe Werewolf Hunter," Glaser understands the powerful hold of fixations, no matter how dumb they can be.

That's all part of the fun, of course, and with his latest show "Jon Glaser Loves Gear" on truTV, Glaser has come the closest that he ever has to actually portraying a semi-realistic version of himself in front of the camera. While most of the characters he has created in the past have been based on ridiculous concepts, this version of "Jon Glaser" is derived from a genuine love of all things gear.

I met up with Glaser in between takes during the filming of the hilarious second season — premiering tonight — to get to the bottom of his fascination with cool swag.

"To me, I didn't even approach it from a comedy standpoint at all," Glaser explains. "The original idea for the show was way more reality-based. I didn't even consider pitching it to comedy networks at all. I thought it would be much more gear-based. It comes from a genuine place of really liking gear and stuff."

While the show had a more wholesome beginning, of course, it began to veer into Glaser's usual absurd world. The first season of the series followed Jon as he tested out new gear for different activities such as camping, building a man cave, surfing and cycling with both his automated gear specialist Gear-i, voiced by John Hodgman, and his co-expert Steve Cirbus ("Spurt" for short). As we get deeper, Glaser's enthusiasm for the gear on his show begins to affect his family life.

The new season follows this obsession even further as "Jon" begins to lose sight of where the show ends and where it begins. Glaser credits the inspiration behind this version of himself on a routine that he used to perform onstage.

"I did this bit onstage years ago, where I wore a jacket," he remembers. "The first time I did it was with this really nice raincoat that I bought from this company called Westcomb, which is an offshoot of Arc'teryx. They make really high-end, more technical raincoats for backpacking or ice climbing."

"It's a really nice, beautifully made jacket," he adds. "So, I thought, 'I'm just gonna go on-stage and I'm going to talk about this jacket' … I said to the audience 'I was trying to think of a bit for tonight and was having a tough time thinking about something new. I had writer's block so I went back to that tried and true device of write about what you love. Something I love is this raincoat.'"

Is this love of gear simply a midlife crisis?

"I never thought of it as a midlife crisis thing," Glaser says with a laugh. "But it is a funny way to look at it! It's one of those things where, if I step back, I'm sure I'd be like, 'Oh my God.'"

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Metro Self Storage, 100 Upper Silver Lake Road, Newtown, PA 18940 • 215-860-5625
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Metro Self Storage, 1145 Easton Road, Willow Grove, PA 19090 • 215-659-6065
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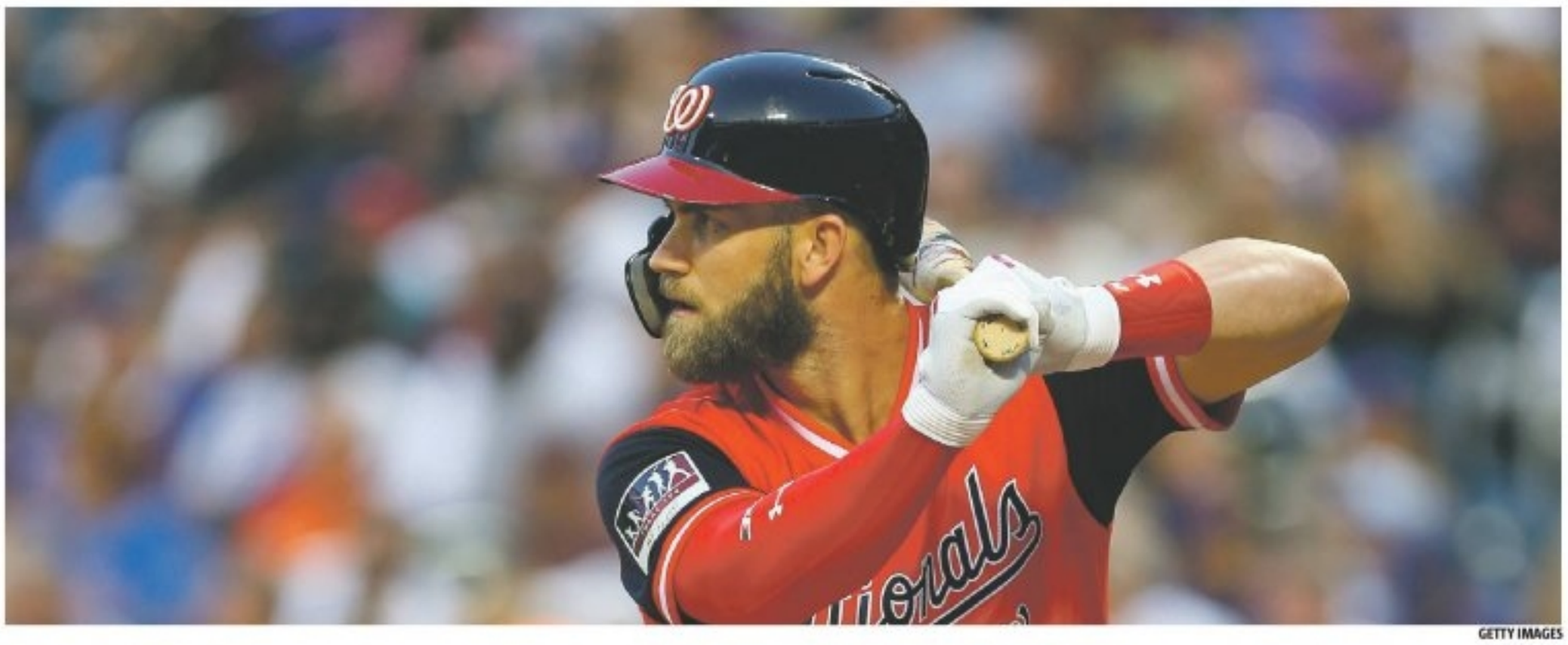

GETTY IMAGES

Phillies planning to meet with Bryce Harper this weekend

Philly is making a full-court press for the services of the 26-year-old superstar outfielder.

JOVAN ALFORD
jovan.alford@metro.us

While the Philadelphia Phillies and the rest of the baseball world await Manny Machado's decision on where he will be playing this upcoming season, they are planning to meet with superstar outfielder Bryce Harper this weekend.

Bob Nightengale of USA Today reported earlier this week that the Phillies' front office is going to meet with Harper and his agent Scott Boras for their first face-to-face meeting in Las Vegas on Saturday. Among the contingent that will be there from Philadelphia is managing partner John Middleton.

Last week, Jim Salisbury of NBC Sports Philadelphia reported that the Phils were planning to meet with the 26-year-old Harper within the next week or so. Harper also reportedly spoke to the Chicago White Sox and Los Angeles Dodgers earlier this offseason.

In regard to his former team, the Washington Nationals, Nightengale reported that Harper and Boras met with owner Ted Lerner in late December. The Nationals reportedly offered him a 10-year, $300 million contract extension on the final day of the 2018 regular season, which Harper turned down. Since then, Washington has said that offer is not on the table anymore.

However, this is not the first time that the Phillies have spoken with Boras, as the two parties conversed at the Winter Meetings last month in Vegas.

It is no secret that Philadelphia wants either Machado or Harper, especially with the amount of money they can spend. Multiple reports have said this offseason that the Phillies are primarily interested in Machado over Harper.

But Jon Heyman of Fancred Sports reported back in December that Harper is "believed to be the Phillies' top target." Additionally, it has been mentioned that neither player is enamored with the idea of playing in Philadelphia.

Phillies fans will be hoping that Heyman's latest report is correct as the Machado sweepstakes seems to be winding down, albeit at a glacial pace.

The White Sox are also in on Machado and have made a number of moves to help sweeten a deal that is going to range between $220 million and $275 million.

Chicago has already brought in Machado's brother-in-law Yonder Alonso and outfielder Jon Jay. All three of them train together down in Miami during the offseason.

Regardless of who the top priority is, we should take it with a grain of salt because even though Philly is not a huge media market such as New York or Los Angeles, the Phillies do play in one of the more favorable hitters' parks in the majors.

Over his illustrious career, Harper has slashed .268/365/.564 with 14 home runs and 32 RBIs in 50 games at Citizens Bank Park. That is the most homers he has hit at any other ballpark outside of Nationals Park.

This past season, Harper slashed .249/.393/.496 with 34 home runs and 100 RBI. Despite his auspicious start to the 2018 campaign, where he had 23 home runs and a batting average of .214, the 26-year-old superstar racked up a career-high 130 walks. On that same note, he also struck out an enormous 169 times.

Nevertheless, it should be interesting to see how things play out in this cat-and-mouse game between Harper and Machado's agents.

From an outsider's perspective, it appears that one agent is waiting for the other blink and get their client the best deal possible.

With that being said, I would place my money actually on Harper to make his decision first, before Machado.

Either way, a handsome payday awaits both 26-year-old All-Stars.

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LEGAL NOTICES

Court of Common Pleas for the County of Philadelphia, December 6th, 2018, No. 181102395000008. Notice is hereby given that on December 10th 2018, the petition of: Eilan Sample, praying for a decree to change his name to: Eilan Holmes. The Court has fixed court date January 25th 2019, at 11:00AM, in Room No. 691 for hearing. All persons interested may appear and show cause if any they have, why the prayer of the said petition should not be granted.

Notice is hereby given that Articles of Incorporation were filed with the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with respect to a proposed nonprofit corporation, The Urban Ministry Institute of Chester, Inc. which will be incorporated under the Nonprofit Corporation Law of 1988. A brief Summary of the purpose or purposes for which said corporation is organized is: To be a Church, Religious Ministry, Community Development Organization.

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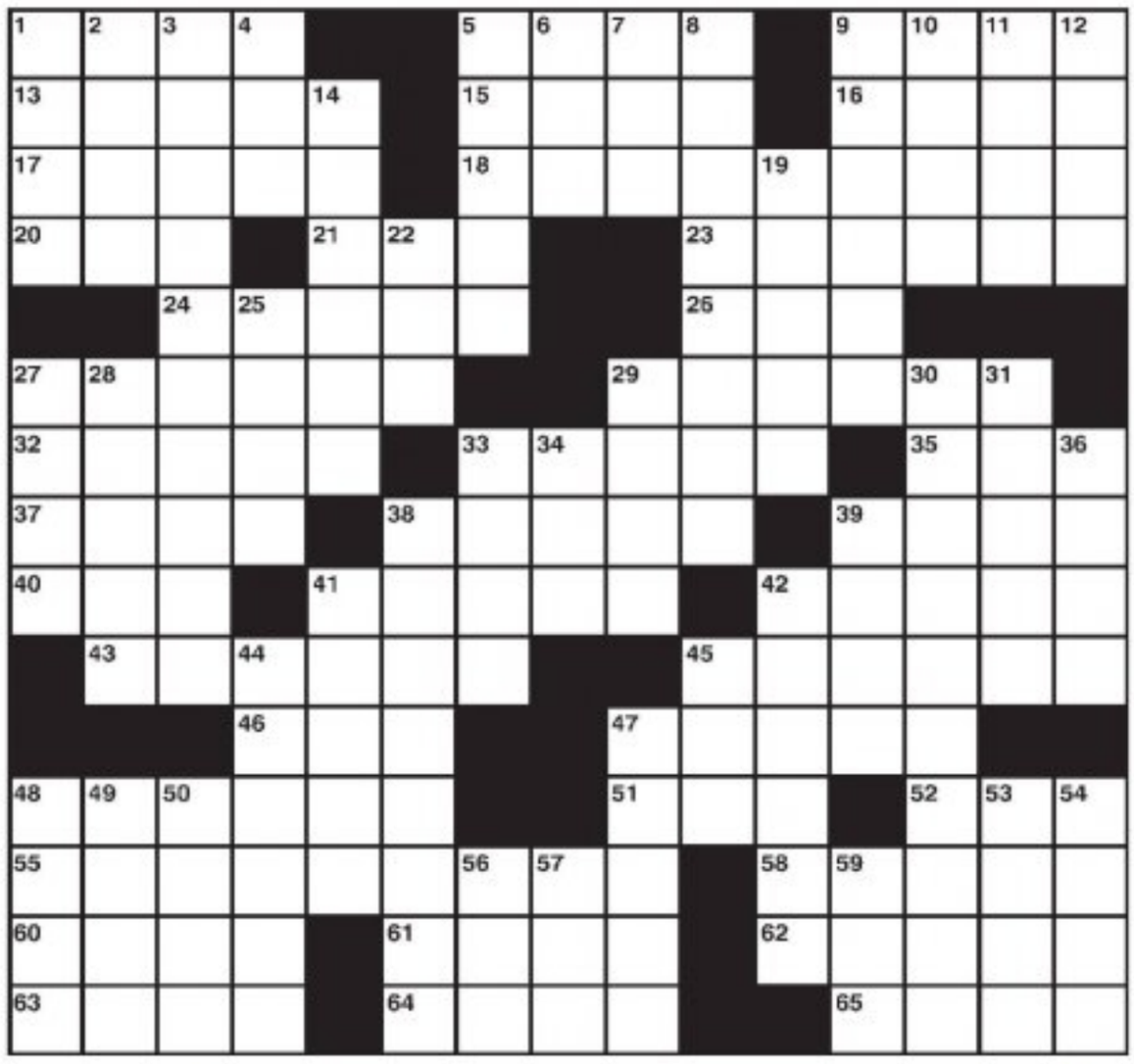

BY TCA

ACROSS

1 Boost
5 Felt put-__; was resentful
9 Store away
13 TV's "Green __"
15 Rectangular glass piece
16 Clerical error
17 __ Ste. Marie
18 Sugar or Splenda
20 Schwarzkopf's initials
21 Feasted
23 Rely
24 Implied, but not spoken
26 Kind of dog
27 Umpire's cry
29 Court break
32 __ out; deteriorates
33 Word attached to light or back
35 Cushion
37 Painting, dancing, etc.
38 Meanders
39 Zero
40 Prefix for heat or view
41 Locates
42 Teeming crowd
43 Floating
45 John the Baptist or Joan of Arc, e.g.
46 Tiny fellow
47 Papers to be filled in
48 "The __ in the Dell"
51 "__ Lazy River"
52 Energy
55 Fair
58 Weight revealer
60 Family tree member
61 Get an "F"
62 Sorority letter
63 Cleaning cloths
64 Passing crazes
65 Writing table

DOWN

1 Whip
2 "__ See Clearly Now"
3 Fed up
4 __ Aviv
5 Agitated
6 Fido's foot
7 Half and half
8 Unnecessary
9 Treeless tract of land
10 Tim Daly's sister
11 __ house; realtor's event
12 Dictionary entry
14 Piles
19 Instruct
22 Suit accessory
25 Haughtiness
27 Exchange
28 __ firma; dry land
29 Los Angeles team
30 Where to find game scores
31 Koufax or Duncan
33 Helvetica or Times New Roman
34 Boy
36 Forest animal
38 Disreputable folks
39 Accepted standard
41 __ mignon
42 Badger
44 Sends in payment
45 Janitor's item
47 Gas and coal
48 Dread
49 Greenish-blue
50 Ladder step
53 American __; MA's state trees
54 Acme
56 Pasture cry
57 Can top
59 El __; Spanish hero

metro.us/wordsearch

M	O	B	Y	D	I	C	K	N	S
C	O	N	F	U	S	E	D	I	D
P	I	P	T	I	M	E	S	L	R
S	T	A	I	R	W	A	Y	E	I
K	H	D	L	O	T	T	A	P	B
E	N	E	V	A	E	H	S	P	D
L	O	Z	X	E	L	O	V	E	R
O	E	A	O	Z	N	W	X	Z	A
H	U	D	R	G	O	O	D	W	Y
W	I	M	M	I	G	R	A	N	T

Confused
Dazed
Good
Heaven
Immigrant
Led
Lotta
Love
Moby Dick
Song
Stairway
Times
Whole
Yardbirds
Zeppelin

metro.us/wander

Category: Cat Breed

B	T	L
O	A	I
B	M	E
N	A	R
A	C	I

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metro.us/sudoku

9	5	4			3			2
		2			1			5
7			2				3	
5		9	6				2	
3	4	6		8		7	9	1
	2				9	5		6
	9				8			3
2			9			4		
4			3			1	6	9

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C	R	O	W		S	T	R	A	Y		P	R	O	S
H	O	P	E		T	W	I	C	E		H	I	N	T
A	P	E	D		R	E	P	E	N	T	A	N	C	E
D	E	N		L	E	E	S			A	S	K	E	W
		H	E	I	S	T			H	I	E			
S	H	A	D	E	S			C	A	N	D	I	D	
P	A	N	G	S		B	L	U	N	T		M	A	C
A	N	D	Y		B	O	A	R	D		S	P	R	Y
T	O	E		B	O	A	S	T		F	A	R	E	S
	I	D	L	E	R	S			H	O	N	E	S	T
			A	G	E			B	O	X	E	S		
T	H	E	T	A			F	A	U	X		S	I	P
R	E	L	E	N	T	L	E	S	S		R	I	C	A
A	R	M	S		K	A	T	I	E		O	V	E	N
P	E	S	T		O	P	E	N	S		T	E	D	S

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